

REMARKS

Initially, Applicants would like to express their appreciation to the Examiner for the detailed Official Action provided, for the indication that the drawings are acceptable, for the acknowledgment of receipt of Applicants' Information Disclosure Statement, and consideration of the cited documents, by return of the Form PTO-1449, and for the acknowledgment of Applicants' Claim for Priority and receipt of the certified copies of the priority documents in the Official Action.

Upon entry of the above amendments, claims 1 and 2-5 will have been amended. Claims 1-8 are currently pending. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the outstanding rejections, and allowance of all the claims pending in the present application.

On pages 2 and 3 of the Official Action, claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by NAKAMURA et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,877,892).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Claim 1, as presently amended, includes, inter alia, " . . . a distance measuring system which measures a distance to said sighting object; a phase detection autofocus system which detects a focus state of an image of said sighting object on a reference focal plane; an AF driver which moves a focusing lens of said sighting telescope optical system

to bring said sighting object into focus in accordance with an output of said phase detection autofocus system; a selector for setting a consecutive distance measurement mode in which said distance measuring system performs plural measurements of distances to said sighting object; and a controller which coordinates focusing operations of said AF driver with distance measuring operations of said distance measuring system in the consecutive distance measurement mode."

Applicants submit that NAKAMURA et al. fails to disclose *a selector for setting a consecutive distance measurement mode in which a distance measuring system performs plural measurements*. Applicants further submit that NAKAMURA et al. fails to disclose *a controller which coordinates focusing operations of an AF driver with distance measuring operations of a distance measuring system in a consecutive distance measurement mode*.

In this regard, Applicants note that NAKAMURA et al. discloses different embodiments having distance measuring devices and autofocus devices. However, Applicants submit that none of the embodiments disclosed in NAKAMURA et al. include *a selector for setting a consecutive distance measurement mode in which plural measurements are performed by a distance measuring system, or a controller which coordinates focusing operations of an AF driver with distance measuring operations of a distance measuring system in a consecutive distance measurement mode*. Note, for

example, the embodiments shown in Figures 7 through 9 of the present application.

Applicants also submit that dependent claims 2-8, which are patentable at least due to their dependency from claim 1, for the reasons noted above, recite additional features of the invention and are also separately patentable over the prior art of record. For example, it is clear that NAKAMURA et al. lacks at least the additional subject matter recited in claims 3 and 4.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the rejection of claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is improper at least for each, and certainly for all, of the above reasons. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection, and an early indication of the allowance of these claims.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION


Entry and consideration of the present amendment, reconsideration of the outstanding Official Action, and allowance of the present application and all of the claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate.

Applicants have made a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance and believe that they have now done so.

Any amendments to the claims that have been made in this amendment, which do not narrow the scope of the claims, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered cosmetic in nature, and to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should there be any questions or comments, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Kenji KANEKO et al.



Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

Daniel B. Moon
Reg. No. 48,214

April 15, 2005
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191